



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Placemaking for Sustainable Communities

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PLN7PSC

Version: 1.00

Status: Final

Date: 15/04/2024

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Placemaking for Sustainable Communities

Module Leader:

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact and Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 60 hrs (30%)

Self-directed Study Time: 70 hrs (35%)

Assessment Study Time: 70 hrs (35%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 0%

Computer Marked Assessment: 0%

Self-directed Research Project: 0%

Portfolio/Project: 100%

Module Summary

This module provides students with a focused introduction to placemaking, both as a concept and the outcome of collaborative working. They will explore the mix of regulations, methods and techniques that inform the neighbourhood planning process, and how to resolve the tensions and contesting values of different stakeholders in developing a consensus-based spatial strategy. Students will be encouraged to develop subject-specific skills, such as the identification and use of appropriate data sources, as well as an individual and/or group preparation and presentation of an evidence base which remains a statutory requirement in local plan making.

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Urban Planning (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to offer students the opportunity to:

- Acquire and progress a detailed knowledge and practical understanding of placemaking and sustainable communities, both as concepts and in practice;
- Develop critical skills in policy analysis, regeneration, community engagement and strategic site planning;
- Apply the current and evolving approaches and techniques of wide-area spatial analysis, and to the presentation of issues and options for decision taking; and
- Explore comparative best-practice approaches to problem identification and resolution in a neighbourhood context.

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Identify and critically evaluate appropriate data, local resources and infrastructure to develop sustainable communities by engendering social capital, inclusiveness, a sense of identity, health, and well-being.
- LO2. Develop a comprehensive understanding of how placemaking enhances sustainable communities through the development of a high-quality built environment and public realm.
- LO3. Critically evaluate the concept of localism and apply knowledge and relevant skills necessary to support the neighbourhood planning process.
- LO4. Demonstrate collaborative skills, facilitate negotiation, apply critical thinking and show an ability to lead in interdisciplinary, professional and community contexts.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **Introduction to placemaking**
A critical exploration of the origins and evolution of placemaking as a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of the built environment and public realm. Drawing on relevant case studies from the UK and overseas, students will consider how placemaking can lend added value to a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential identity, where the creation or regeneration of buildings and public spaces can improve and promote community health and well-being.
- **Localism in regulation and practice**
Assessing the range of legislation, policies, guidance, initiatives, and freedoms available to local communities in the UK, notably the Localism Act 2011, e.g., Neighbourhood Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders, and Assets of Community Interest; and the possible implications of Neighbourhood Priorities Statements in Local Plans, introduced under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.
- **Applying professional techniques to placemaking**
Students will be introduced to (and/or advance their existing skills in) area-wide spatial analysis, characterisation studies, conservation area appraisals, strategic site

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planning, community engagement and leading and participating in interdisciplinary, multi-sector teams.

- **Placemaking in a real-world context**

Students will be given opportunities to contribute actively to real-world placemaking initiatives, such as a Neighbourhood Plan or an equivalent process in their own context. To that end, they will apply a customised methodology based on, for example, Planning for Real or the Localities Approach, and synthesising their reflections with that of their colleagues and the module learning material.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral, and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting	Minimum assessment threshold
LO1, LO2, LO3	Assessment 1 Portfolio / Project (e.g., skills audit, group and individual role play documentation preparation)	3,500	70%	50%
LO4	Assessment 2 Project (e.g., participation in group role play scenario)	1,500 equivalent	30%	50%

Module Pass Mark (each element is to be passed separately): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the UCEM e-Library.

Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online webinars/seminars led by the Module Leader can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together.

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These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work through it at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit [the VLE e-Library](#).

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, **Knowledge Foundations** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module website and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.